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The New World Port

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February 29, 2000

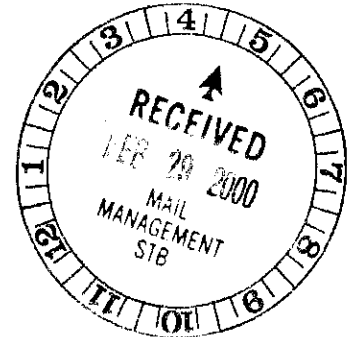
Our File # 2477

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423 0001

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Office of the Secretary

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Dear Sir:

The Prince Rupert Port Authority is an international seaport located on the North West Coast of Canada. Over ninety percent of the nearly 10 million tonnes of freight that moves through this port is transported by rail and therefore the success of our organization is highly dependent upon efficient and economical rail service. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on the central issue as to whether the BNSF/CN combination provides improved service, efficiency and competition for users rather than on any potential downstream effects. The BNSF/CN combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these proposals need to be evaluated under the same terms.

As an organization heavily dependent upon the railway, our main concern is with service. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that the BNSF/CN combination will deliver improved service.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the BNSF/CN combination according to that process without delay.

Yours truly,


Don Krusel
President & Chief Executive Officer

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